

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 9-11 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 11, stating that it should be designated by the legend --Prior Art--. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge one (1) sheet of Corrected Formal Drawings which amends Fig. 11 to designate it as --Prior Art--.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 2-8 due to informalities. Claims 2-5 have been canceled, and Claims 6-8 amended to correct for any informalities noted by the Examiner.

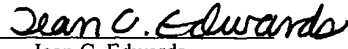
The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Muramatsu et al. in view of Otsuka. However, the Examiner has found Claims 6-8 allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's position of Claims 1-5 as being unpatentable over the applied prior art, in order to further the prosecution of this case, Claims 6-8 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean C. Edwards
Registration No. 41,728

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
Telephone: 312/876-2891
Facsimile: 312/876-7457
Date: August 21, 2003
14327013/V1